Catalano, Michele

June - July, 1919

(075)

S. Tenente Michele Catalano

243° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

COMANDO

647

Milano - Italy
Corso Sempione 60.
19th June 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President of the University
of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. Clarke, the Canadian Gov. Trade Commissioner in Milan, one of our University men, has been so kind to write you in my behave. I am in fact very anxious to be dismissed from the Army, now that war is over and there is not any particular need of my work here. After more than three years of the hardest life and the most exciting war experiences it is very natural that

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connected with an important institution like the University of Toronto, except thru' the Canadian or British Government especially being myself a Canadian citizen. I have sent in an application to the Secretary for the War in Rome, and altho' a good friend of mine is doing the best he can to secure my "permanent leave from the Army" before September, in order I should be back to Toronto for the new term, I doubt very much my application will succeed in being granted. The best way, I think would be, dear President for you to write directly & thru' the Official Authorities, to the

I should feel perfectly justified in saying this. Unfortunately I am still in the Compulsory Service Age, being born in 1889, and are dismissed from service, temporarily & permanently only those officers that are particularly requested at home for business & professional reasons. Teachers, instructors, men holding responsible positions, when requested by schools or firms, have been dismissed. One of the reasons why the Italian Government is very slow in demobilizing is the fear that many of the officers and men, on returning home, would not find work or a way to make their living. In my particular case, I have no official position in Italy and no way to state my being regularly

Italian Government. It would be enough a word from the British Ambassador in Rome, and I am sure the Italian Government will not regard it as an interfering with the National laws, because I am in a way a British subject. One of the reasons why I did not want to raise in my rank was to be dismissed as soon as I could. I have been a soldier in the war, but do not like to perpetuate my present condition. In mentioning my name it should be well to state that I am a territorial officer, been three year consecutively at the front; wounded; born 1889, in Milano; in Canada since 1911.

With my best regards, and wishes to You, always yours. Ufficiale

July 15th, 1919

Lieutenant A. Catalano,

Corso Sempione 60,

Milan, Italy.

Dear Mr. Catalano:

I am afraid that we cannot as a University officially ask for your recall from the Italian Army for work next year. I have brought the matter before Professor Buchanan, who is head of the department of Italian, and he tells me that while he is willing that you should be re-appointed for the coming year, 1919-20, and in accordance with his recommendation I have made this arrangement, he cannot recommend you for appointment in Italian after next year. He is of opinion, therefore, that you should endeavour to secure permanent outside of the University. If any opening occurs to you in Italy it might be well for you to take it, and it is more to urge upon the Italian Government to bring you out before they had completed with your service in the Army we should be incurring responsibility that might involve us in future complications.

As I said before, we have the place for you for next winter, and surely the Government will allow you to leave the army so as to be here by the first of October. I think in these circumstances you should make your petition through your high officers saying that a position for the coming year is awaiting

you, but if they are unwilling to release you I do not see how in the circumstances we can take the responsibility of making a formal request.

Yours sincerely,

President.